
Book reviews

Durand, P.; O'Brien, J.S. (eds): Genetic Errors of Glycoprotein Metabolism. Milano: Edi-Ermes; Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer 1983. xv+220 pp., several figs. Hard bound DM 84,—.

"Glycoprotein storage diseases" or glycoproteinoses is an unfamiliar nosological entity. It encompasses sialidosis, fucosidosis, mannosidosis and aspartyl-glucosaminuria. In this book a chapter is devoted to each of these entities. Discussions on some related diseases are included, e.g. GM 1 Gangliosidosis and Sandhoff disease, Salla disease, I-cell disease and pseudo-Hurler polydystrophy. This deliniation leads to the situation that Sandhoff disease (Hexosamidase A and B deficiency) is included but all human geneticists will wonder about the absence of a chapter on Tay Sachs disease (Hexosamidase A deficiency). "The clinical and pathological picture is similar to GM2 gangliosidosis type I, Tay Sachs disease." Why is there only a comparative mentioning of Tay Sachs disease that has priority over Sandhoff disease?

The treatment of each disease is clear and concise, but could not the tables (e.g. 6.3) on urinary and hepatic oligosaccharides (more than 4 pages) have been reduced to a (one page) degradation scheme?

The introduction and concluding remarks make this book useful as a primary course for those physicians who have to deal with these (rare) patients. The volume is also a demonstration of some genetic principles in human diseases.

S.J. Geerts, Nijmegen

Thomson, J.R. (ed.): Advances in Research and Technology of Seed. Part 8. Wageningen: Pudoc 1983. 124 pp. Soft bound Hfl. 40,65.

Since 1975 the International Seed Testing Association has produced a yearly literature report. More than half of the scientific literature on seeds concerns germination and seed-born diseases. This is also reflected in the newest edition, which contains 3 reviews: main developments during the last four years in the study of the deterioration and survival of orthodox and recalcitrant seeds (E.H. Roberts); effect of temperature, moisture, light, growth regulators, chemical and allelopathic factors, salinity and inner processes, on germination (L. Kahre). Hereditary aspects were announced but not to be found. The review on seed pathology contains references from the period between 1978 and 1982 and is arranged according to pathogenic agents (S.B. Mathur).

This year's reports are a useful help for those working in the field. Surprisingly, many genetical aspects found in the present edition are only mentioned with respect to genetic conservation.

H.F. Linskens, Nijmegen